

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Amended) A method for manipulating a sample comprising:

- i) aspirating said sample into a first dispensing tip having a first and a second end, said second end being sealable;
- ii) sealing said sealable end of said first dispensing tip to produce a sealed dispensing tip, and
- iii) inserting a second dispensing tip into said sealed dispensing tip, and aspirating said sample within said sealed dispensing tip, or
- iv) withdrawing a diluent or reagent into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said diluent or said reagent into said sealed dispensing tip containing said sample to form a mixture with said sample.

13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by compression.

14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed by heat.

15. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein in said step of sealing (step ii), said sealable end of said first dispensing tip is sealed with a cap, or by plugging with a material.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps are performed by a chemistry analyzer apparatus.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the steps are manually performed.

18. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein after said step of aspirating (step i), and before said step of sealing (step ii), said sample is displaced from said second end toward said first end of said first dispensing tip.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein said step of withdrawing (step iv) [involves dispensing one or more fluids, and] is followed by removing said mixture into said second dispensing tip and dispensing said mixture into said sealed first dispensing tip (step v).

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Added) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of removing said sample (step v) is repeated one or more times.

23-28. (Canceled)